

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A technical support system comprising:

a service information portal section which provides web pages as an information input and output interface;

a knowledge base section which stores various claim reports and solutions answered by engineers with respect to the claim reports; and

a claim handling section which searches said knowledge base section for solutions which match a claim content input to a client web page;

wherein said claim handling section is configured to perform an ordinary search of collecting the claim reports from said knowledge base section based on product information input as the claim content, and an extended search of extracting predetermined items of claim definition information in a standard term from claim details of a natural language form input as the claim content by referring to a synonym table which converts synonym terms having the same technical meaning into the single standard term and then deriving a reduced number of solution candidates based on a combination of the claim definition information items from the claim reports obtained in the ordinary search.

2. The technical support system according to claim 1, wherein said claim handling section is configured to check a missing item of the product

information based on the claim definition information obtained in the standard term in said extended search, and fill out the missing item of the product information with the standard term.

5           3. The technical support system according to claim 2, wherein said claim handling section is configured to check an error item of the product information based on the claim definition information obtained in the standard term in said extended search,  
10           and requires confirmation as to whether or not the product information is correct, when the claim definition information is inconsistent with a content of the product information.

15           4. The technical support system according to claim 1, wherein said claim handling section is configured to check an error item of the product information based on the claim definition information obtained in the standard term in said extended search,  
20           and requires confirmation as to whether or not the product information is correct, when the claim definition information is inconsistent with a content of the product information.

25           5. The technical support system according to claim 1, wherein said claim handling section includes a synonym table which is referred to in the extended search to convert synonymous terms indicative of a problem into a single standard term.

6. The technical support system according to claim 1, wherein said claim handling section includes a synonym table which is referred to in the extended search to convert synonymous terms indicative of a unit corresponding to a problem occurring position into a single standard term.

7. The technical support system according to claim 1, wherein said claim handling section includes a synonym table which is referred to in the extended search to convert synonymous terms indicative of a cause of a problem into a single standard term.

8. The technical support system according to claim 1, wherein said claim handling section includes a synonym table which is referred to in the extended search shown to convert synonymous terms indicative of a treatment for a problem into a single standard term.

9. A recording medium with a program for a technical support system server which includes a service information portal section which provides web pages as an information input and output interface, a knowledge base section which stores various claim reports and solutions answered by engineers with respect to the claim reports, and a claim handling section which searches said knowledge base section for solutions which match a claim content input to a client web page, said program being arranged for causing said claim handling section to perform an ordinary search of

collecting the claim reports from said knowledge base  
section based on product information input as the claim  
content, and an extended search of extracting  
predetermined items of claim definition information in  
5 a standard term from claim details of a natural  
language form input as the claim content by referring  
to a synonym table which converts synonym terms having  
the same technical meaning into the single standard  
term and then deriving a reduced number of solution  
10 candidates based on a combination of the claim  
definition information items from the claim reports  
obtained in the ordinary search.

10. The recording medium according to claim 9,  
wherein said program is arranged for causing said claim  
15 handling section to check a missing item of the product  
information based on the claim definition information  
obtained in the standard term in said extended search,  
and fill out the missing item of the product  
information with the standard term.

20 11. The recording medium according to claim 9,  
wherein said program is arranged for causing said claim  
handling section to check an error item of the product  
information based on the claim definition information  
obtained in the standard term in said extended search,  
25 and requires confirmation as to whether or not the  
product information is correct, when the claim  
definition information is inconsistent with a content

of the product information.

12. A technical support method using a knowledge  
base section which stores various claim reports and  
solutions answered by engineers with respect to the  
5 claim reports, said method comprising:

an ordinary search step of collecting claim  
reports;

10 a step of extracting predetermined items of claim  
definition information in a standard term from claim of  
a natural language form input as the claim content by  
referring to a synonym table which converts synonym  
terms having the same technical meaning into the single  
standard term; and

15 an extended search step of deriving a reduced  
number of solution candidates based on a combination of  
the claim definition information items from the claim  
reports obtained in the ordinary search.

13. The technical support method according to  
claim 12, further comprising:

20 a step of checking a missing item of the product  
information based on the claim definition information  
obtained in the standard term in said extended search;  
and

25 a step of filling out the missing item of the  
product information with the standard term.

14. The technical support method according to  
claim 12, further comprising:

a step of checking an error item of the product information based on the claim definition information obtained in the standard term in said extended search; and

- 5 a step of requiring confirmation as to whether or not the product information is correct when the claim definition information is inconsistent with a content of the product information.